

The 21st Tokyo Defense Forum (TDF)
Summary by the Chair
Tokyo, 28 and 29 March 2017

I. Introduction

- 1 . The 21st Tokyo Defense Forum (Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region: TDF) was held in Tokyo, on 28 and 29 March 2017, with the participation of 26 countries (Australia, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Canada, China, French Republic, India, Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, New Zealand, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia Federation, Republic of Singapore, Democratic Social Republic of Sri Lanka, Kingdom of Thailand, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Socialist Republic of Vietnam). Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, European Union (EU) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also attended the Forum.
- 2 . The Forum was chaired by Mr. Osamu IZAWA, Director-General for International Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Japan.
- 3 . The Forum addressed two agendas: "Peacekeeping Operations: Upcoming Challenges and Ways to Cooperate Ahead" and "Domestic Challenges of Defense Authorities."
- 4 . Mr. Takayuki KOBAYASHI, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense, made the opening remarks and welcomed participants. He pointed out that the countries in the Asia-Pacific region found themselves in an increasingly severe security environment and he highlighted the defense authorities' pivotal role in ensuring peace and prosperity. He also underlined the importance of regional cooperation regarding PKO to synergize partners' relevant efforts to enhance PKO capabilities and the necessity of cooperation for establishing and maintaining defense authorities' robust structure.

II. “Peacekeeping Operations: Upcoming Challenges and Ways to Cooperate Ahead”

Japan, Mongolia, France, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Canada, China, EU, India, Indonesia and ICRC made presentations on the peacekeeping operations.

5 . Participants shared their experiences in PKOs and discussed their achievements and challenges. Some participants pointed out the importance of combining various policies such as economic aid in addition to contingents' mission accomplishment itself to conduct effective PKO. As desirable objectives, participants emphasized the importance of learning languages of countries of PKOs deployment, in particular in French speaking environments, in order to improve intelligence and peoples protection duties. Participants also stressed the necessity of effective involvement of women in operation. Moreover, they shared the view that preparation prior to a dispatch is critically important for contingents to be well-trained with deep understanding of recipient countries' culture and society.

6 . Participants emphasized the necessity of advancing capacity building efforts in the field of PKO. To that end, they discussed that the significance of regional cooperation such as improving collaboration among partner's PKO centers, advancing capacity building cooperation including fostering civil engineering and medical personnel, and various training and exercises. Moreover, they concurred on the view that sharing practical experiences in the region is progressing through various multilateral training and exercises, in particular through ADMM-Plus EWG and Khaan Quest, co-chaired by the US and Mongolia. In addition, it was pointed out that PKO is an appropriate field to advance multilateral cooperation and expectation for advancing China-ROK-Japan trilateral cooperation was also mentioned.

7 . Participants emphasized the importance of collaboration with the UN. Moreover, to conduct more effective PKO, some participants pointed out the necessity for the UN to overcome diverse challenges participants referred to in the forum through regional cooperation and expectation was expressed for the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial scheduled later this year in

Canada to be a right place to deepen the discussion.

8 . Regarding PKO, participants pointed out that differences among troop contributing countries in the realm of SOP and ROE are also another challenge. They also shared the view that while this point is inevitable since domestic law is different from country to country, it is important for the UN to coordinate measures which enable countries to enhance mutual understanding and advance coordination prior to dispatch.

9 . Participants pointed out the importance of peace keeping operations in the maritime domain. They also exchanged views regarding counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Somalia and the multilateral exercise KOMODO hosted by Indonesia and reaffirmed their significance.

III . “Domestic Challenges of Defense Authorities.”

Singapore, Philippines, Russia, Bangladesh, US, Lao PDR, New Zealand, Australia, Brunei, and Papua New Guinea made presentations on domestic challenges which defense authorities face.

10 . Participants shared the recognition that it is very meaningful for each defense authority to exchange views on their own efforts to respond to various challenges at international conferences including the Tokyo Defense Forum, which also contributes to the reinforcement of the basis to respond to regional common security issues under closer cooperation.

11 . Participants shared the view that there is an increasing need to strengthen inter-agency cooperation as well as coordination among domestic actors including defense authorities, private sectors, and NGOs in order to respond to diversified and complex security challenges. It was pointed out that defense authorities are expected to deploy necessary capabilities and assets at the initial phase of critical situations based on the priority articulated beforehand.

12 . Participants agreed that it has become increasingly important to secure talented personnel and effective management of such skilled key workforce.

Some participants explained their efforts to overcome challenges such as through introducing scholarship program and clarifying career stages in defense. Moreover, it was pointed out that response to challenges requires us to effectively engage women in defense sectors and it is necessary to implement defense cultural reform, generate comfortable gender-free atmosphere at defense duties and achieve greater occupational gender balance with concrete criteria of numerical targeting. Further, there was discussion that each country's own efforts and cooperation with high-capable countries are important in addition to the whole-government approaches that are necessary for capacity building of human resources under the limited defense budget.

- 1 3 . Participants pointed out that further cooperation amongst various actors is necessary particularly in the field of cyber security. Cyber security covers not only defense authorities but also a domain where the whole of government conducts relevant activities, and it was emphasized that closest cooperation between public and private as well as cross-government efforts are important. Participants also noted that it is necessary to establish norms and rules for stable and safe use of cyber domains.
- 1 4 . Participants discussed the concept of total defense is important so as to build a strong, secure and cohesive nation that is prepared and able to deal with any crisis. It was discussed that under this concept, total efforts are critical such as establishment of the systems to ensure operations can continue to run even after an emergency and strengthening societal bonds and guarding against extremist ideologies in addition to ensured duties by defense authorities.
- 1 5 . Participants stressed that law enforcement agencies' role has become more important as challenges in the maritime security become increasingly dominant. Importance of coordination was also pointed out between defense authorities and law enforcement authorities including the police from the viewpoint of counter-terrorism. Based on these perspectives, participants witnessed active exchange of views including the closer ways of coordination between defense authorities and law enforcement agencies.

1 6 . Participants shared the recognition that North Korea, which continues to develop nuclear and missile capability against relevant UN Security Council resolutions, is imminent threats for the whole of regional security.

. Concluding Remarks

1 7 . The participants shared the view that TDF continues to play unique roles in promoting candid and active discussions among the Director-General level officials in the region and beyond.

1 8 . The Chair expressed his gratitude to all participants for their support and valuable contributions to the Forum. Participants expressed their appreciation to Japan as the host to organize this Forum for the promotion of regional defense dialogue and cooperation.